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modern tendency to paint in a very high key was very apparent and all of the awards were given to pictures of this kind. The gold medal was given to Miss Elsa Laubach of St. Paul for a painting in oil of a red-haired girl. The second prize, a silver medal was awarded to Elizabeth Holman of Chicago for a beautiful landscape entitled "Still Waters." The bronze medal went to Mrs. Gertrude J. Barnes of Minneapolis for a "Study of Peonies." Honorable Mention was given to Sister Marie Theresa of the Order of St. Joseph and to Anna Page Scott of Dubuque, Iowa. In water-color and pastel the awards were as follows: the silver medal was won by Mabel Key of Milwaukee for a large and interesting picture of Easter lilies; the bronze medal was won by Miss Elizabeth Bonta of St. Paul for "An Old House by the Sea." "A Study of Reflections," by Augusta H. Knight of Omaha, received the honorable mention. In etching, George Elbert Burr, of Denver, received the silver medal for "Winter Morning"; the bronze medal for etching went to Paul Hammer-smith of Milwaukee, and honorable mention in sculpture to Corice Woodruff, of Minneapolis.

THE  
AMERICAN  
ACADEMY  
IN ROME

The American Academy in Rome has just issued its report for the year 1914-15. It is a remarkably interesting document, and one which is full of the history of the day. The decision of the Board not to close the Academy at the beginning of the war has vindicated its wisdom, and the possibility of bringing together under the same roof in harmonious working relationship artists and scholars has been splendidly proved. The Director, Dr. Carter, in his report says:

"There is no profit in denying or belittling the losses and difficulties which have come to us because of the war; we recognize and acknowledge them all. We realize that our support depends upon our being known and understood by our fellow-countrymen, and the war, in shutting off the pilgrimage of Americans to Rome, has postponed the day when our work shall be properly known. Instead of thousands of Americans, only a few score have as yet seen our men at work in their new sur-

roundings. The busy activity of our studios, our studies, our life classes, our lectures and our Library, all these are unrealized; and we must wait, living on half rations until the relief expedition arrives. But this much the war has done for us: it has given us privacy and quiet in the working out of our new problems, and if we can live together peaceably in the solemn silence of the Eternal City in these days of almost vacuum-like, nature-abhorrent stillness, we shall experience no trouble in the normal days which are to come sooner or later. For there is an outward peace which has no inner lining, and solitary loneliness makes for hyper-sensitiveness and morbidity. Italy was never more instructive, never half so lovable as in this, the hour of her trial. It is a great privilege to have the right to be here; the results of this residence will be evident all the rest of our lives, and the memory will never cease of these days in "that so holy spot, the very Rome."

The fact is that the work of the Academy has gone on without interruption, and that in spite of difficulties and restrictions genuine progress has been made. This report of the Academy is an interesting record of real achievement and is full of stimulus and encouragement.

ARTS AND  
CRAFTS

The Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, has recently issued its report for the year 1915. It seems, as the Secretary states, to have been one of commendable activity and progress. With regard to sales a new high water mark of prosperity was reached, 9,785 sales being made amounting to over \$79,000.

More activity among the Guilds is reported than for several years. The Metal Workers' Guild has held a number of interesting meetings. The Ecclesiastical Workers' Guild has been organized and has undertaken the building of a small chapel in the salesrooms to provide a proper setting for the display of ecclesiastical work. The photographers of the Society have also formed a guild.

The jury reported improvement in many of the branches of work submitted. The critic of the jury, Mr. C. Howard Walker, states that there has been a great improve-

ment in the silver, but profiles of forms, contact of handles with bowls, etc., should be more carefully studied. "Especially," he says, "is there lack of knowledge of mouldings and of the decoration of mouldings. As this is readily obtainable, it is to be regretted that it is absent. In the jewelry, elements of contrast, occasionally, are very crudely obtained or else omitted. Enamels have distinctly increased, but it is said that they are not appreciated by the public, in which case it might be well to adapt them to coloring backgrounds to gold or silver designs. Bronze work is thus far very crude, surfaces being overdone. Church brasses and niello have not made their appearance. Carving of all sorts is weak, except with one or two workers, and ivory carving is still absent. Cabinet work is not especially good. It is probable that small armoires, etc., if interesting and made with inlays, would attract attention. Textiles are occasionally very good, but usually crude. It is desirable that more good needlework should be presented. There is still a great deal of basketry which is not inspiring. On the other hand, the color of articles sent in, whether in combination of jewels, textiles, decorative work or illuminations has very much improved. The Christmas and Easter cards suffer seriously from lack of skill in draughtsmanship and composition of the designers, especially in figure drawing. The ambition of a designer, who, while understanding patterns, at the same time cannot draw the figure, but who insists upon attempting to do so, should be discouraged. The mirror frames have improved both in design and carving, resorting less to mere grooving. There have been a number of unusually good photographs presented, excellent in composition and tone. In metal work it is suggested that hinges, book clasps, scutcheon plates for furniture, etc., and similar objects should be made. There is still opportunity for good china painting. The work usually lacks delicacy, outlines are not finely drawn, and designs are often too large for the objects upon which they are put. Colors also are poorly contrasted. It is recommended that work be sent in that is skilful in design and in one color only. There is a meager collection of lamp and candle shades.

There should be shades which reflect more light upon the table and which have finer designs."

These criticisms of Mr. Walker's were not made of those members who received commendation but of those who are working toward that point. To the laymen interested in the art crafts, as well as the craftsmen, they are, however, of much interest.

LECTURES AT  
THE  
METROPOLITAN  
MUSEUM FOR  
THE BLIND  
AND DEAF

It is interesting to note that the Metropolitan Museum is endeavoring to open the delights of Museum study to those who are deaf or blind. In April two lectures were given for the blind, one on "Life in Colonial Days," by Miss Winifred E. Howe and the other on "The History and Development of the Piano," by Miss Frances Morris. These lectures were illustrated by objects from the Museum collections which might be handled. In May a lecture on "Barye, the Sculptor of Animals," was given by Miss Jane B. Walker for deaf children who were able to read the lips. This lecture follows two given earlier in the season for adults who were hard of hearing, both of which were attended by great success.

THE  
MINNEAPOLIS  
INSTITUTE  
OF ART

The Minneapolis Institute of Art is to be congratulated upon the recent acquisition of a painting by John S. Sargent, "The Luxembourg Gardens at Twilight," a gift from Mrs. C. C. Bovey and Mrs. C. D. Velie. It is an early work, but for this reason none the less charming—subtle in quality, very lovely in color and masterly in style. It is inscribed "To my Friend McKim," and originally belonged to the architect, Charles Follen McKim, whose death occurred a few years ago. A similar canvas, small in size, is in the John G. Johnson collection, Philadelphia.

During the month of May the Minneapolis Institute of Arts has shown an exhibition of works by the Painters of the Far West and a collection of posters submitted in a recent poster competition held at Newark, N. J.